

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00264 021306Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
/066 W

-----046010 021436Z /45

P 012100Z AUG 78  
FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1418  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL MONTREAL  
AMCONSUL TORONTO

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, CA  
SUBJ: QUEBEC PARTICIPATION IN CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS

1. FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION, GOQ LEADERS HAVE CONSISTENTLY DENIGRATED PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU'S PROPOSALS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM AND HAVE THREATENED TO BOYCOTT OR OTHERWISE DISRUPT UPCOMING FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL MEETINGS ON THE SUBJECT. IT HAS GONE VIRTUALLY UNNOTICED IN QUEBEC'S MEDIA, HOWEVER, THAT AT THE TWO MEETINGS HELD TO DATE QUEBEC HAS PARTICIPATED FULLY AND WITHOUT HISTRIONICS. AT A MID-JULY MEETING IN SASKATOON OF PROVINCIAL MINISTERS CHARGED WITH FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS MINISTER CLAUDE MORIN NOT ONLY ADHERED TO THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE RELEASED AT THE END OF THE MEETING BUT ALSO TOLD HIS COLLEAGUES FROM CANADA'S OTHER PROVINCES THAT QUEBEC "WOULD PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL DISCUSSIONS PROPOSED BY OTTAWA."

2. IT NOW APPEARS THAT MORIN INTENDS TO KEEP HIS PROMISE. AT A FOLLOW-UP MEETING IN TORONTO LAST WEEK OF SENIOR PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS HAVING TO DO WITH CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS, QUEBEC'S  
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REPRESENTATIVE WAS THE TOP CIVIL SERVANT IN MORIN'S MINISTRY, DEPUTY MINISTER ROBERT NORMAND. ACCORDING TO A REPORT IN LE DEVOIR (QUEBEC'S OTHER NEWSPAPERS HAVE IGNORED BOTH THE TORONTO AND SASKATOON MEETINGS ENTIRELY), NORMAND PARTICIPATED VERY ACTIVELY IN THE MEETING, GOING SO FAR AS TO MAKE A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS REGARDING THE TIMING AND THE CONTENT OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S CONSTITUTIONAL PROJECT. IT SEEMS LIKELY FROM THIS

THAT LEVESQUE WILL ALSO MAKE SUBSTANTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FORTHCOMING FIRST MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN REGINA.

3. COMMENT: SINCE LEVESQUE MADE SOMETHING OF AN EVENT EARLIER THIS YEAR OF WALKING HUFFILY OUT OF TWO FIRST MINISTERS MEETINGS, THE DEGREE OF QUEBEC'S PARTICIPATION, EVEN COOPERATION, AT THE SASKATOON AND TORONTO MEETINGS CONSTITUTES A DEFINITE CHANGE OF TACTICS. OPPOSITION LEADER CLAUDE RYAN HAD SCORED A NUMBER OF POINTS RECENTLY BY ATTACKING LEVESQUE'S CONFRONTATIONAL TACTICS, SAYING THAT IT WAS TIME FOR THE PQ GOVERNMENT TO BEGIN TO "ACT LIKE A GOOD GOVERNMENT SHOULD," AS IT WAS ELECTED TO DO; THE GOQ MAY SIMPLY BE REACTING TO THAT CRITICISM. IT SEEMS FAR MORE LIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOQ WANTS TO SHOW THAT IT CAN NEGOTIATE SUCCESSFULLY AND IN GOOD FAITH WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS, PARTICULARLY WITH OTHER PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION, AFTER ALL, WILL HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED WITH THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS, AND BLOW-UPS AT INTERPROVINCIAL CONFERENCES SERVE ONLY TO REINFORCE THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS GOVERNMENT COULD NOT SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATE SUCH AN ASSOCIATION.  
MCNAMARA

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROVINCE, GOVERNMENT REFORM, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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